

Main Street Parker Pony Truss Bridge
Spanning Yellow Creek at Main Street (SR 170)
Poland
Mahoning County
Ohio

HAER No. OH-40

HAER
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Main Street Parker Pony Truss Bridge

HAER No. OH-40

Location: Main Street (State Route 170) over Yellow Creek,
Poland Township, Mahoning County, Ohio

UTM Coordinates: 17/532420/4541070

Date of
Construction: 1904

Present Owner: State of Ohio
Department of Transportation
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio

Present Use: Vehicular and pedestrian traffic

Significance: The Main Street Parker Pony Truss Bridge was built in 1904 by Huston and Cleveland of Columbus, Ohio. Although the firm only operated from 1902-1907, it built quite a few bridges in the Mahoning County area, of which this is a good example. The crossing is an important one in Poland, and this bridge was built after suggestions of improving the existing bridge had been abandoned. This bridge is listed as a "selected bridge" in the Ohio Department of Transportation's Ohio Historic Bridge Inventory Evaluation and Preservation Plan. It is also within a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

Report
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Ohio Historic Bridge Recording Project
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MAIN STREET PARKER PONY TRUSS BRIDGE
HAER No. OH-40
Page 2

The Main Street Bridge is a Parker Pony Truss with cantilevered sidewalks and pipe hangers beneath the bridge. A Parker truss is similar to a Pratt truss (upper chord and verticals in compression, bottom chord and diagonals in tension), but it has a polygonal upper chord. The bridge has a clear span of 100 feet, and an overall span of 108 feet. Its members are composed of channels and plates riveted together. A plaque on the bridge states that it was built in 1904 by Huston and Cleveland of Columbus, Ohio (please see Mahoning Avenue Pratt Double Deck Bridge report, HAER No. OH-41, for further information on this firm).

County Commissioners Journals for Mahoning County indicate that. The original intention was to restore an earlier bridge.¹ It was soon clear, however, that much rebuilding was necessary as the Commissioners stated their intention to 'restore, rebuild and construct a bridge' over Yellow Creek on Main Street in the Village of Poland.² The contract for the substructure was awarded to Andrew Falluci (or Colluci?) for the sum of \$5935,³ while the contract for the superstructure went to Huston and Cleveland.⁴ Many other bridge companies put in bids, but the contract went to Huston and Cleveland, 'their bid being lowest and best'.⁵

MAIN STREET PARKER PONY TRUSS BRIDGE
HAER No. OH-40
Page 3

In December 1904, the contract was also given to Huston and Cleveland for the railing on the stone approaches to the Main Street Bridge. The cost was \$292. The bridge was noted as being completed on 3 January 1905. Plans for the bridge bear the name of both Huston and Cleveland Company, and the American Bridge Company, as do the plans for the Mahoning Avenue Pratt Double Deck Bridge (HAER No. OH-41).

The County Commissioners Journal entries for the Main Street Bridge give a detailed account of the procedures of the Commissioners leading up to the construction of the bridge.

County Commissioners Journal, Volume 8, 1904:

18 January
p370

County Commissioners to have a hearing to see if there are any objections to the restoration of Poland Bridge. Hand bills are to be circulated, and advertisements placed in one or more county newspapers for four consecutive weeks to advertise the date of the hearing (February 23, 1904).

23 February
p378

There were no objections at the hearing, so the bridge is to be improved.

p405

The auditor is to advertise and sell bonds to the amount of \$18,000 in order to raise money for the bridge.

p405-6

The auditor is instructed to advertise for bids for the structure of the bridge 'in accordance with plans and specifications and instructions to bidders which are prepared and on file in the office of the auditors of Mahoning County, and also at the office of the County Surveyor'.

MAIN STREET PARKER PONY TRUSS BRIDGE
HAER No. OH-40
Page 4

p407

The auditor is instructed to advertise for bids for the superstructure.

7 May
p422

Bids are received for Poland Bridge bonds.

Decisions are made on who they will/will not go to.

10 May
p425-6

Bids are received for the sub- and superstructure.

1 June
p434

The contracts are awarded.

NOTES

- 1 Mahoning County, Ohio, County Commissioners Journal (18 January 1904) vol. 8: p. 370.
- 2 Mahoning County, County Commissioners Journal vol. 8: pp. 404-6.
- 3 Mahoning County, County Commissioners Journal (1 June 1904) vol. 8: p. 434.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.

The other companies to put in bids are listed under the entry for 10 May 1904 (vol 8 p. 426). They are:

Columbia Bridge Company, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Pennsylvania Bridge Company

Virginia Bridge and Iron Company, Roanoke, Va.

Oregania Bridge Company, Lebanon, Oh.

Illinois Bridge Company, Chicago, Il.

(E Lander, Canton, Oh.)

King Bridge Company, Cleveland, Oh.

Indiana Bridge Company, Muncie, In.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mahoning County, Ohio. County Commissioners Journal (1904), vol. 8.